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FORESTS

A CANADIAN PASTORAL

J. E. SANDERSON. M.A.

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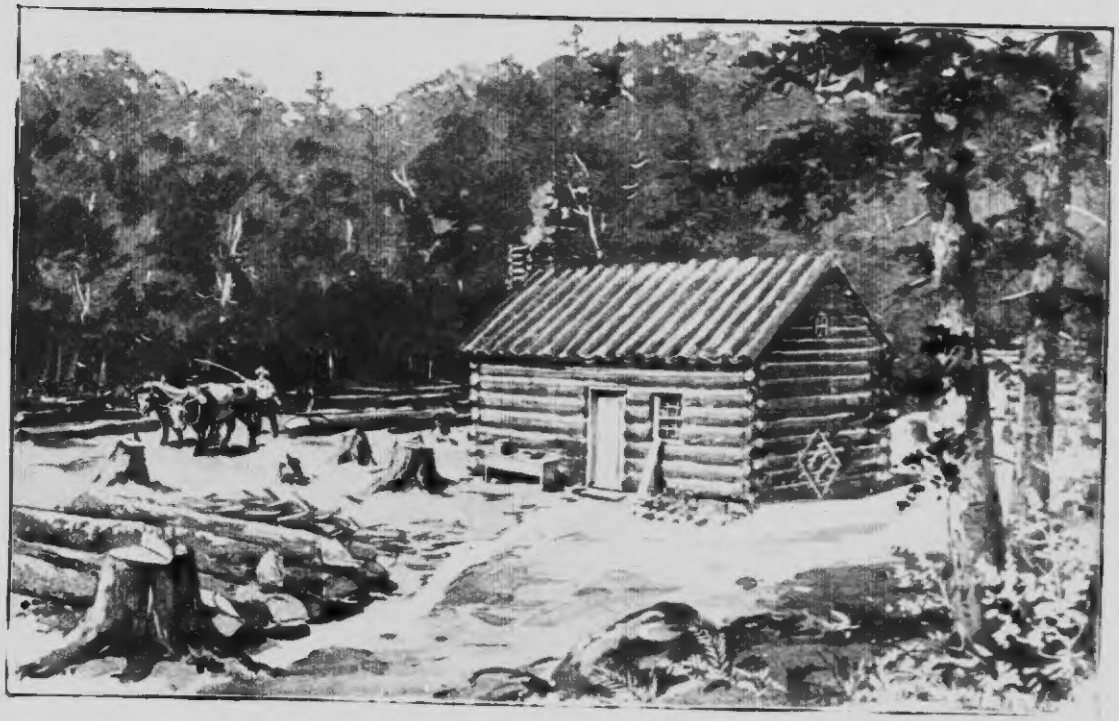
TORONTO
WILLIAM BRIGGS
1906



LOG HOUSE

"Chosen the site and a log cabin planned"

FORESTS CANADIAN

PART I

Primeval

Queenly in grandeur and standing at ease,
Bathed in the sunshine and fanned by the breeze,
Tressed as a maiden,
Emerald laden,
Forests Canadian!

Oak trees gigantic, proud kings of the realm;
Beeches and cedars and maple and elm:
Russet and green,
Sisters they seem,
Nestling between.

Vast colonnades linking ocean to ocean,
Temples and aisles ready built for devotion:
Incense of praise,
Jubilant lays,
Ceaseless they raise.

Shady retreats for the moose and the deer:
Depths, e'en the wolves and the foxes revere:
Panther and bear,
Ravenous pair,
Rest in their lair.

Warriors wild o'er the dark rivers row,
Belted and brave with their arrows and bow:
Proud of their skill,
Charging at will,
Valley or hill.

Mated and plumed are the songsters so gay,
Wak'ning the forests in earliest May:
Joyful they sing,
Loud their notes ring
Welcome to spring.

PART II.

Pioneers

Over the waters come mariners bold,
Lured by the tidings of silver and gold;
Perils now past,
Anchors they cast,
Safely at last.

Bright beams the sun o'er the rapturous scene,
Mantling the woodlands in shimmering sheen;
Far through the haze
Newcomers gaze,
Lost in amaze.

Broad are these acres and free to us all;
Homes will we build 'mid the forest trees tall;
Here in the west,
Happy and blest,
Safely we'll rest.

Axes are laid to the root of the trees;
Sounds of the chopping float far on the breeze;
Quick as a flash
Maple and ash
Fall with a crash.

Giants lie vanquished, all scattered and strewn,
Hither and thither, as men in a swoon;
Oxen and chain,
Chanting refrain,
Haul up the slain.

Brush-heaps and log-heaps as meteors ablaze,
Crackling and glowing, high carnival raise;
Beacons of light,
Dazzling and bright,
Redden the night.

PART III

Building and Sowing

Chosen the site and a log cabin planned,
Calls to the raising bring many a hand;
Timbers prepared,
Corners well squared,
Rafters all paired.

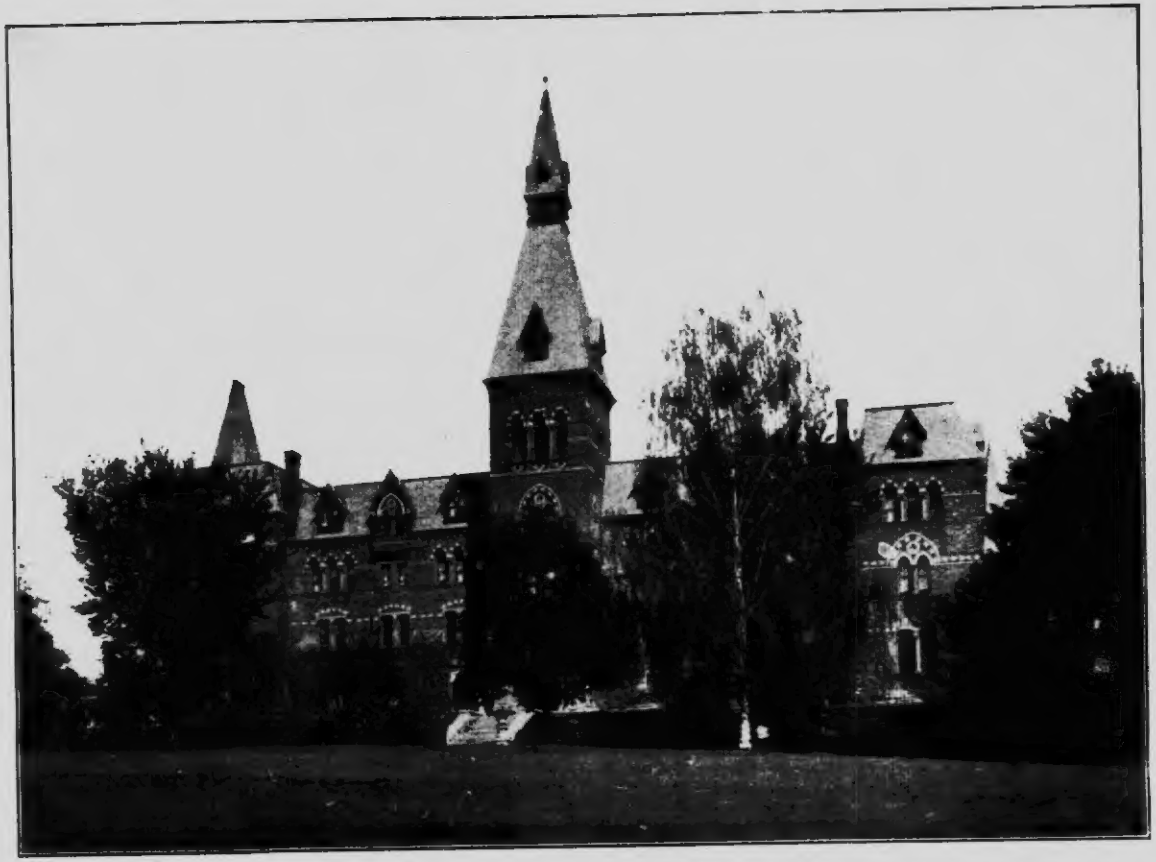
Roll the big back-log in over the hearth;
Pile the wood higher with gladness and mirth;
Brightly the blaze
Scatters its rays
Over the ways.

Wheat must be grown though the stumps hold the ground;
Harvests be raised where the soil can be found;
Scatter the grain,
Promised the rain;
Labor's not vain.

Reapers afield, and their sickles are keen,
Gath'ring the sheaves, then the little ones glean
Garlands of wheat,
Ruddy and sweet,
Brown'd in the heat.

Tramp of the horses and music of flails;
Fanning-mill shattle the farmer regales;
Bags will be fill,
Then to the mill
Drive with a will.

Sweet is the bread which the fond mother bakes;
Blessed the table well loaded with cakes;
Toilers in sowing,
Waiting the growing,
Thanks are bestowing.



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"Colleges furnished invitingly stand."

PART IV.

Flocks and Herds

Pastures are clothed with flocks all the day,
Nipping the grasses and buds by the way;
Sheltered they be,
Restful and free,
Under the tree.

Herds from the hill-side, the brindle and brown,
Scented with clover, run scampering down:
Grizzled and gray,
Glossy and gay,
Join in the fray.

Darkly the furrows turn up in the field,
Promise of future abundance to yield:
Barley and rye,
Growing so high,
Gladden the eye.

Cradles come swinging in musical rhymes,
Laying bright windrows in parallel lines:
Quick in their wake,
Binders and rake
Clearance will make.

Horses and waggons are out in the morn,
Halted at noon by the dinner-maid's horn:
Barns overflow,
Stacks form a row—
How the crops grow!

Thanks to the Giver, devoutly all own,
Sending the harvest the seedtime to crown:
Sending the rain,
Ripening the grain—
Praise Him again!

PART V.

Peace and Plenty

Mansions are built in the log cabin's place;
Gardens and orchards the landscapes embrace;
Forests have fled!
Oxen are dead!
Horses instead.

Fields are now whitened with Lei'ster and Down,
Flocks that a noble heredity crown:
Lambs are at play,
Skipping and gay,
All the bright day.

Herefords and Holsteins of pedigree old,
Bid in the ring and the stall for the gold;
Durham and Ayr,
Jerseys more rare,
Vie at the fair.

Farmers drive out with their carriage and span;
Choice of their blood are swift Charlie and Fan;
Filled every seat,
Gladly they greet
Friends as they meet.

Steam cars are raging from centre to shore,
Bearing earth's riches in plentiful store;
Lightning or steam,
Chariots agleam,
Visions they seem.

Churches and schools shed their light o'er the land;
Colleges furnished invitingly stand—
Enter our door,
Take of our store—
Thirst nevermore.

PART VI

Wedding Bells

Seedtime and harvest are circling their rounds:
Parents and children enlarging their bounds;
Neighbors live near,
Voices sound clear,
Joyful to hear.

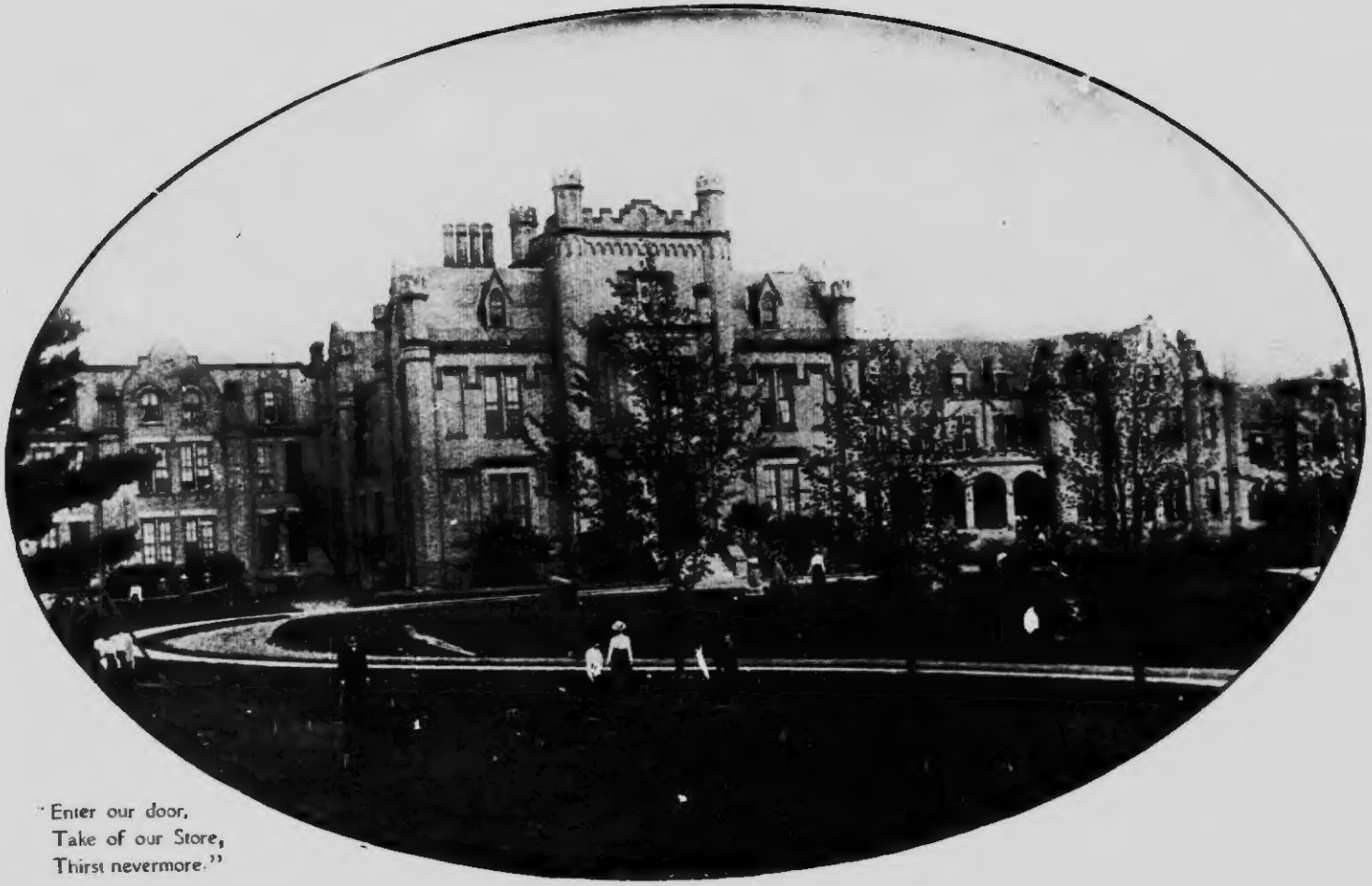
Screened by the chestnuts, a cottage appears:
Some one discerns it and smiles through her tears—
Loveth he so?
Can I forego
Loved ones I know?

Plighted the vows are and given the token,
Promises made that may never be broken:
List to the bell!
News it will tell,
Quickly and well.

Villages grow into cities apace:
Reapers and binders the cradles displace:
Steam on the lakes,
Trolley and brakes,
Every one takes.

Telephone ring brings some message in haste:
Motors fly past us, no moments to waste;
Tired of the street,
Gladly we greet
Shady retreat.

Long as the maples o'ershadow our land,
Firmly for God and her weal will we stand:
Praises we'll bring,
Loyally sing,
"God save the King!"



"Enter our door,
Take of our Store,
Thirst nevermore."

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John Rice, Secretary.

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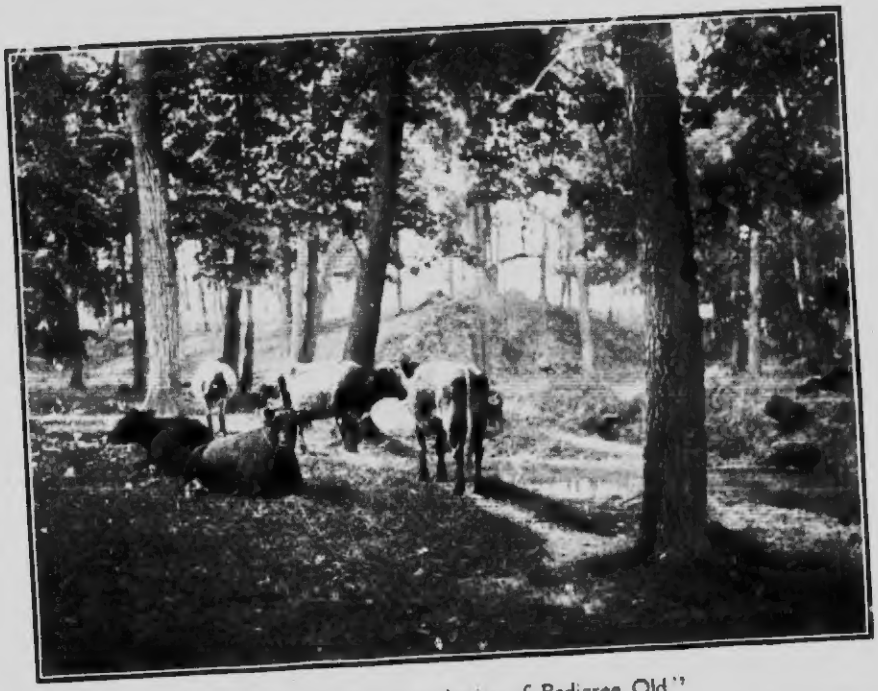

"Herefords and Holsteins of Pedigree Old."

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